

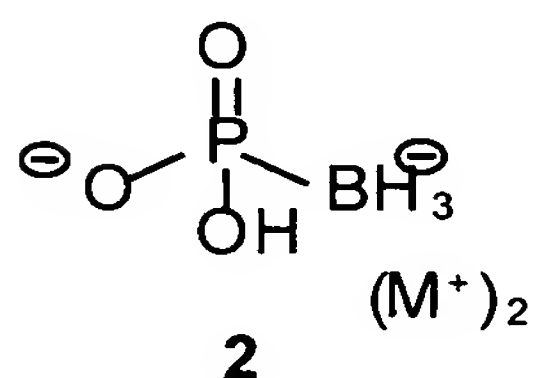
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 11 (Canceled)

12. (New) An inorganic boranophosphate salt of the general formula 2:



wherein M is a counterion.

13. (New) An inorganic boranophosphate salt according to claim 12 wherein the counterion M is ammonium ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ) or an inorganic cation derived from an alkali, alkaline earth or transition metal.

14. (New) The inorganic boranophosphate salt according to claim 13 wherein the counterion M is  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Li}^+$ ,  $\text{Ca}^{++}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{++}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{++}$ ,  $\text{Cu}^{++}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{++}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{+++}$ ,  $\text{Co}^{++}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{++}$ ,  $\text{Pd}^{++}$ , or  $\text{Ag}^+$ .

15. New) An inorganic boranophosphate salt according to claim 12 wherein the counterion M is an organic cation derived from an amine of the formula  $\text{R}_3\text{NH}^+$ , wherein R is  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_{18}$ , alkyl, phenyl,

heteroaryl or two of the Rs together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 3-7 membered ring optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from the group consisting of N, S and O.

16. (New) The inorganic boranophosphate salt according to claim 15 wherein each R is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>, alkyl, optionally ethyl, propyl or butyl.

17. (New) The inorganic boranophosphate salt according to claim 12 selected from the group consisting of ammonium boranophosphate, triethylammonium boranophosphate, and tributylammonium boranophosphate.

18. (New) A method for the preparation of an inorganic boranophosphate salt according to claim 12, comprising reacting tris(trimethylsilyl)-phosphite with borane-dimethylsulfide complex of the formula BH<sub>3</sub>·SMe<sub>2</sub>, in dry acetonitrile under inert gas, and treating the formed intermediate with the suitable base MOH in water or methanol, thus obtaining the desired salt.

19. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said base is methanolic ammonia or an aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>OH solution, thus resulting in the ammonium salt, wherein M is NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>.

20. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said base is tributylamine,  $\text{Bu}_3\text{N}$ , in methanol, thus resulting in the tributylammonium salt, wherein M is  $\text{Bu}_3\text{NH}^+$ .

21. (New) The method according to claim 18, comprising treating the intermediate with triethylammonium bicarbonate buffer, thus resulting in the  $\text{Et}_3\text{NH}^+$  salt.